



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

February 2021

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the February edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. I hope you and your families are keeping well. As I write these lines it would appear that there is no likelihood of the schools being fully open after the February half-term as originally expected and a provisional date of March has been now pencilled in. Of course this still depends on the statistics regarding infection rates showing an improvement and in the meantime all normal activities are still reluctantly on hold. This means that once again most of this month's content is about past events in the Band's history, let's hope that there will be some better and more current news to report on next month.

In the meantime my thanks go to Brian for his contributions. If you would like to send me something for inclusion in future editions, I would be very grateful.

Sarah-Jayne

Band News

The Band would like to send its best wishes to the Wilson family who have been suffering with the Covid virus and hope they are all on the path to recovery.

The Band would like to say a massive thank you to Ian & Nichola of the Corner Pin Sandwich shop in New Bradwell who have made a donation of £200 to band funds. We are so grateful of their generosity.

The Band has been sorry to hear of the death of John Mudway, principal Euphonium with the Towcester Studio Band. John died on Sunday January 3rd from Covid pneumonia. I first met John many years ago when he came to work in Wolverton Railway works as a Project Manager. Our combined enjoyment of Brass Banding meant we spent a great deal of time in conversation when perhaps we should have been working.

John was from Gloucester and very proud of his upbringing and especially his love for music and Rugby. He moved to the Midlands to study and played with many of the top bands in the area. When he moved to Milton Keynes to work in the works he joined MK Brass playing Flugel Horn. John played an important part in MK Brass rise to championship standard.

He moved to Towcester Band a few years ago firstly on Flugel and then Euphonium. I last saw John at the 2019 Leicester contest where his wonderful playing helped Towcester gain first prize. John was a lovely guy who would help any band as and when required. We send our deepest condolences to Alison, Hannah and all of John's family and friends at this sad time.

Brian

Messages

Message from the Secretary

I hope you're all still safe and well and that you managed to make the best of things at Christmas.

It doesn't look as though we're going to be getting back to playing any time soon, so would anyone like to volunteer to set a quiz for a zoom quiz night?

I've forwarded an email with pictures from Our President Peter.

Sue has some masks still to give away, so if you are interested please contact them.

Regards, **Robin**

Message from the Band's President

Hello All,

Sue has these masks remaining after production runs totalling 700. If any band member wishes to have some (or some more) please contact us (e-Mail peter.millstones@btinternet.com)

These have evolved over the months and have bead adjustment and wire nose bridge.

May I reiterate that Sue refuses to accept payment for these!

Please see photo of remaining patterns.

Best wishes, **Peter**



Area Contest 2021 - Regional Committee Statement

Dear Secretary,

Following today's Regional Committee meeting, please pass the following statement onto your band members, administrations and MD.

It is with deep sadness and regret that the London & Southern Counties Regional Committee have decided unanimously to cancel the 2021 Regional Contest that it hoped to hold this coming June. After lengthy discussions, the Committee agreed that the COVID-19 situation may not have been sufficiently resolved in time for an event to be held safely, and so took the agonising decision to cancel the contest for a second successive year. We fully appreciate the difficult situation many of you find yourselves in at this time, and we wish you well during the coming months and with the hope that we can all get back to banding as soon as possible. The 2020 provisional grading tables will remain unchanged with no promotion or relegation this year, and so the aggregate totals from 2018 and 2019 will be carried forward to the 2022 contest. The Committee will now liaise with Kapitol Promotions Ltd. detailing their proposals about how bands should be considered for an invite to the 2021 National Finals in September and October.

I realise how upsetting this will be for you, but the Health and Safety of everyone concerned during the course of a contest weekend remains my number one priority and I trust you understand we had no option other than to take this course of action in order to ensure it. We are already starting to think ahead to the 2022 contest and all being well hope to see you there.

Until then, please take care and stay safe.

Regards

Kevin Williams

Secretary, L&SC Regional Committee



How Milton Keynes Became Wired For Sound

A new book was published towards the end of last year which should be of interest to music lovers across Milton Keynes and beyond. 'Milton Keynes - Wired For Sound' cuts through the foundations of the new town and talks to many of those responsible for building music into its fabric. The book digs beneath the concrete and explores some of the music makers and risk takers who have made Milton Keynes a more colourful place.

Step back to the early days of rock 'n' roll and the famous Wilton Hall dances, learn more about the jazz stars who poured their passion into a music venue here, and join some of the National Bowl headliners as they recall standing on the world-famous stage.

The book is an opportunity to learn more about the Father of Loud, Jim Marshall, and the pages also probe the stories behind some of MK's most popular bands and figures, past and present.

Milton Keynes-based author Sammy Jones has spent three decades writing about the music scene in the town and decided to tell the stories in the 350-page book.

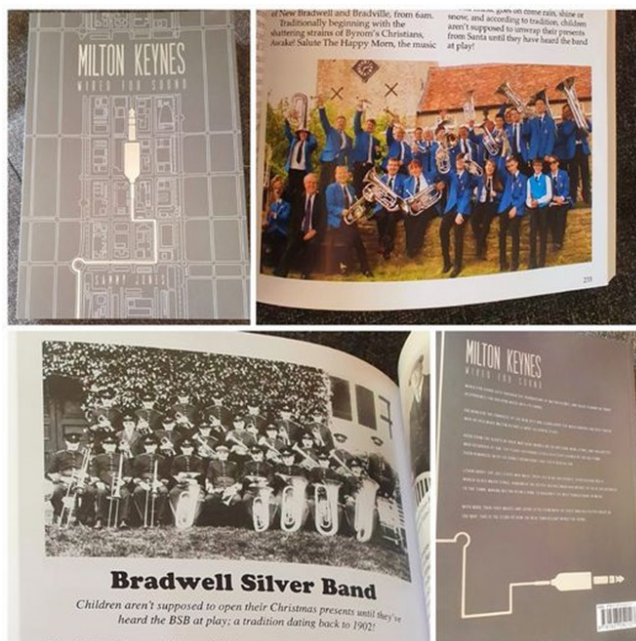
"We have such a special musical history here, and so much of it hasn't been documented – I decided it was time to put that right," Sammy said. "Milton Keynes is home to one of the biggest names in music with Marshall Amplification, and the town has hosted some of the world's biggest rock and pop stars at The National Bowl, and many of them were only too keen to share their recollections of playing here. Wired For Sound brings the memories alive, and shines a light on our own local music scene.

"You'll read about the top-flight recording studio that was set in a quiet corner of the town, and revisit the history of venues including The Sanctuary, The Stables and The Pitz.

"The book also explores the dance scene that made Milton Keynes a hotspot for youngsters from across the country, and much more besides," Sammy added, "It has been a real trip down memory lane for me, and will be for the reader too."

With more than 1000 images and sound bites from many of those who helped put music on the map, this is the story of how the new town became Wired For Sound.

Of special interest of course is the fact that we get a mention and a couple of photographs in this book!



By the way, those of you of a more mature age you may remember that the title "Wired for Sound" was originally used for a studio album recorded by Cliff Richard and released in August 1981. The album peaked at number 4 in the UK album charts upon release, and spent a total of 25 weeks on the chart in 1981–82. The promotional video for the title track is one of Richard's best-known, and was filmed around the centre of Milton Keynes. It featured Richard walking around various city centre locations and riding on roller skates next to the John Lewis store while listening to music on a Walkman cassette player, a device which then newly available in the UK.

Memories Of The Butlins Contest

The first band contest of the year is usually the Butlins contest held in their Skegness (Lincolnshire) resort. The 2021 contest should have taken place over the weekend of 8th/10th January but like so many other things in these far from normal times had to be cancelled.

The contest is usually very popular with bands, with most staying all three nights Friday to Sunday. The entertainment for the weekend is obviously aimed at banders and is always great fun. The Test piece contest takes place on the Saturday with the Championship bands then having an Entertainment contest on the Sunday. For them the results of both Saturday and Sunday decides the overall placing. One reason bands attend is that the prize money is the highest of all the yearly contests for each section.

I know that some of our members have been and had a cold but enjoyable time. We first went in 2007 when my Adam was playing for Yorkshire Imperial Band in the championship section and decided to go on the Sunday. We picked my Dad up very early and travelled the 111 miles to Skegness to then be told we couldn't enter. We were told no day entry was being given on the Sunday due to so many people staying the weekend. We explained how far we had travelled and we had come to listen to our son but still no luck. We did hang around in Skegness until Adam had played and at least met up for something to eat. A 220 mile round trip was a long way to go to hear no bands!

We did though return a couple of years later on the Saturday when Adam was playing with the Yorkshire Co-op Band in the 1st section. 36 bands had entered the section so it was split into 2 contests with 18 bands in each but playing the same Test piece to different Adjudicators. The top 6 placed bands in each section then played again later in the day against each other to the 2 adjudicators to determine the overall result. Adam's band came overall 4th so I think this is the only time I'll hear the same band play the same piece twice in a day.

There was also a year when Adam, Luke, Fraser and Joe went for the weekend just to listen but the weather conditions were terrible with heavy snow. I know they had a horrible journey just getting there. Not sure what else went on that weekend but the banding saying of what happens in Skegness stays in Skegness was mentioned many times when the boys were questioned!

Brian



Band Recordings

Listening to music has always been a part of most of our lives. Whether you are a fan of classical, popular or brass band music, if you could not attend a live performance there has always been an opportunity to listen in the comfort of one's home through the medium of radio, record player, cassette recordings, compact disks and now a whole new generation of devices that are readily available.

Brass bands are, of course, musical organisations first and foremost, and the bulk of their heritage is bound up in the hundreds of thousands of concerts, marches, contests and other performances they have provided their audiences with over the years. Very few of these live performances were ever recorded, at least until recent years, and we must depend on the formal studio recorded performances to enjoy the music of the bands of the past. Many such recordings still exist in personal collections, music libraries, archives and more recently archives which have digitised recordings from older media, cleaned up the sound and preserved them in digital audio files.

We believe the first known recording featuring the Bradwell Silver Band dates back to the 1950s and was in the format of an old 78 rpm vinyl record. I remember hearing how one of the old members of the Band had it in his possession but have no idea what music it contained or if any such copy still exists. If you know differently then please let us know, it would be fascinating to get hold of this unique piece of Band history.

The old vinyl records were replaced by cassettes which had the benefit of mobility but took a hit on sound quality and durability. It was the equivalent of a paperback, use it and lose it. Cassettes remained the dominant medium for purchasing and listening to music in many countries but by the mid 1990s compact disc (CD) technology had superseded the cassette in the vast majority of music markets around the world.

During Brian Keech's time as Musical Director, the Band has recorded four albums, which after numerous enquiries from our audiences, were produced principally to raise funds by selling them at our concerts and fetes. The first of these recordings made comprised normal concert items and some of the more popular pieces performed at our Christmas concerts. The inset was a basic image of a windmill and the music recorded on Side 1 was Barnard Castle, (Everything I Do) I do For You, Miss Marple, The Teddy Bear's Picnic, Any Dream Will Do, The Floral Dance, One Voice and One Moment in Time
Side 2 featured the Christmas music and included Jingle Bells, Walking In The Air, Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer, O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, Ding Dong Merrily On High, Away In A Manger, Schneewalzer, Mary's Boy Child and Christmas Swingalong

The second recording was done around 1998 and titled "Brass At The Mill", the cover photograph used being the windmill situated in New Bradwell from which the Band (and school) derived their logo. Side One had Stars and Stripes Forever, Light As Air, Post Horn Galop, Memory, Ticket To Ride, A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square, Too Much, Let's Face The Music and Dance, while Side Two had Confection For Brass, Lady In Red, I Got Rhythm, Love Changes Everything, The Lincolnshire Poacher, Amazing Grace, The Lion King and Born Free.

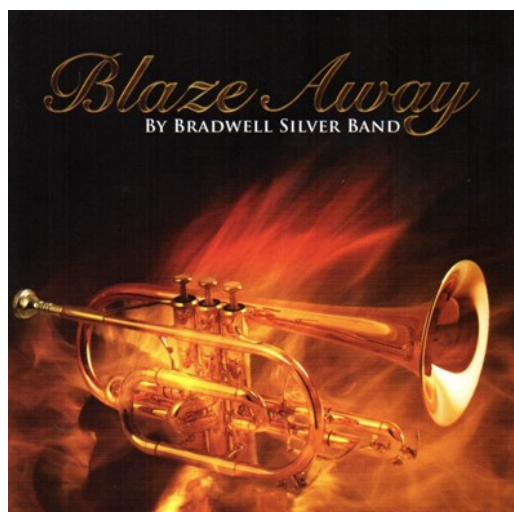


Band Recordings

The previous two recordings had been made on cassette tape and the third venture was also made available on CD for the first time. This was "Centenary Brass" which was produced to coincide with Bradwell Band's 100th anniversary in 2001 and featured a photograph of the Band that made the recording. It opened with the Bradwell Centenary March, My Love Is Like A Red Red Rose, Ground Force, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, Air and Rondo, I Will Follow Him, The Joker, Mama Mia.

Side Two contained Bramwyn, Send In The Clowns, Singin In The Rain, Tritsch Tratsch Polka, When you Say Nothing At All, Blaydon Races, My Heart Will Go On, There's No Business Like Show Business.

It was to be another ten years before the Band's next recording which was to commemorate the Band's 110 years and the venue hired for the recording was the Old Stratford Community Hall. This was released in CD format, the cassette tape by this time having been consigned to history.



Entitled "Blaze Away" it naturally opened with Blaze Away followed by Carrickfergus, New York New York, Shepherd's Song, Do-Rei-Mi, Concerto de Aranquez, Raiders of the Lost Ark, She's The One, He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother, The Lion Sleeps Tonight, Myfanwy, Death Or Glory, Someone To Watch Over You and American Trilogy. (Rumour has it that there may be a few copies of this last CD available, let the editor know if you would like one!)

As to the future who knows if the Band will make any more formal recordings? Modern technology has made it possible for anyone with a basic grasp of modern technology to record just about anything and everything and post it on social media for everyone to see and hopefully enjoy. So the tapes and CDs that were made are an important part of the Band's history and give an indication as to the standard of playing achieved by the Band at the time of recording. It is really enjoyable to sit and listen to these past performances and with it comes the hope that we will be able to return to playing in the not too distant future.



All Our Yesterdays

This month we publish a photograph that most of us will have seen before, the difference being that due to the wonders of modern technology it now has added colour to the old black and white original. It is a bit patchy still, but hopefully brings to life the parade lining up in the High Street in New Bradwell back in 1909.

This scene is still recognisable today although the two brick pillars have recently been taken down to allow redevelopment of the site. I have no way of knowing if this was the actual colour of the uniforms being worn at the time but I love the detail picked out on the caps and sleeves.



Humour

We could all do with a bit of a laugh during these difficult times. The following collection is based on notices posted on Church notice boards and newsletters.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Wednesday the ladies liturgy will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing Put Me In My Little Bed accompanied by the vicar.

Thursday at 5:00 pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be "Little Mothers" should meet with the Vicar in his study.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? with hymns from a full choir.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

This evening at 7 P.M. there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.